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Approved For Release 2003/07/14 : CIA-RDP78B04767A000100160003-6

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16 March 1967

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Imagery Analysis Staff, CIA

SUBJECT: Invitation for Participation in Gathering
Background Information of Project RINGAROUND

REFERENCE: NPIC Project Number 22231-7

NRO REVIEW
COMPLETED

1. The exploitation, evaluation, mensuration and in-house reproductions of color missions [redacted]

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[redacted] indicated that the processing activity may not be providing optimum reproductions for the extraction of intelligence information. Project RINGAROUND has been initiated to determine if there is a better "aim point" for color reproductions or whether a new family of color emulsions may be required.

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2. It appears that the state-of-the-art of manufacturing material for color duplication seriously lags the state-of-the-art for manufacturing color acquisition material. These constrictions are being eliminated as color technology improves. However, for the present the Community must make the most of what is presently available. Color will be more useful to the Intelligence Community if the color reproductions meet the requirements of those who exploit the material. The processing activity is aware of this need and has requested that an evaluation be conducted at NPIC to provide an "aim point" for the reproduction of color. Informal discussions [redacted]

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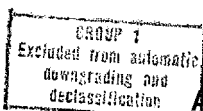
[redacted] initiated the selection of ten frames [redacted] to be used to conduct such an evaluation. Twenty-eight reproductions were made of each of these ten frames; twenty-one vary in color balance and seven vary in density.

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3. It should be pointed out that this analysis is not a comparison between the merits of black and white and color photography. The purpose of the evaluation is to determine which, if any, color reproduction is optimum for intelligence exploitation, mensuration and in-house reproduction. The evaluation may indicate that more than one type reproduction will be required by NPIC. Once the results from this evaluation are studied, the processing activity will be better able to meet the requirements established by the Intelligence Community for the reproduction of color.

4. Assistance is being provided by various components of NPIC. The evaluation is based on a statistical selection and requires the opinion of personnel who use the material. Because IAS photointerpreters are important users of the product under evaluation it is requested that they participate in the project. If this meets with your concurrence, it is requested that ten photo analysts from IAS participate in this exercise. It is estimated that four manhours will be required for each participant to complete the evaluation. So that TID can complete its preparations it is requested that you notify me by 24 March whether or not you wish IAS photointerpreters to participate in project RINGAROUND.

Chief, Technical Intelligence Division, NPIC

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